

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 4 was previously cancelled. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in the Final Office Action. Claims 8 and 9 were also amended to clarify the invention.

Claims 8-10 are thus pending in the application

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,587,141 to Tanaka.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,720,987 to Koyanagi et al.

Claims 8-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection of claims 8 and 9 should be withdrawn. The objection of claim 10 should also be withdrawn since claim 10 depends from respective base claim 9.

Applicant also respectfully submits the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection to claims 1-3, 5 and 6 as being anticipated by Koyanagi et al. and claims 6 and 7, as being anticipated by Koyanagi et al. is rendered moot based on the amendments to the claims.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the prior art rejection.

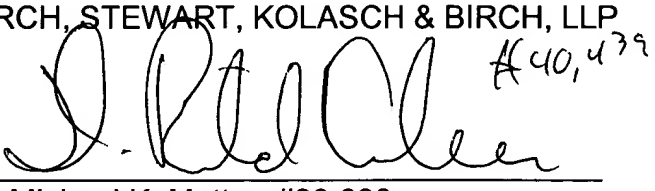
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Demetra R. Smith-Stewart (Reg. No. 47,354), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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